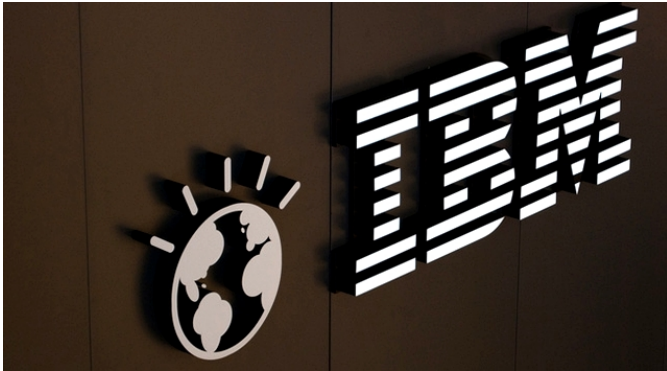


IBM Pours \$1.2 billion into Cloud

Written by Marco Attard
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IBM sets to spend over \$1.2 billion to build up to 15 new data centres across 5 continents, all part of a bid to expand its cloud services and reach new clients and markets.

The investment will boost the number of Big Blue data centres to a total of 40 by end 2014, and double the storage capacity of cloud services provider SoftLayer. Reportedly the \$2bn acquisition brought 2400 new customers to the IBM fold.

New data centres will be built in Washington D.C., Mexico City, Dallas, China, Hong Kong, London, Japan, India and Canada. IBM also plans to expand into MEA territories come 2015.

"This global expansion is aimed at accelerating into new markets based on growing client demand for high-value cloud," the company states before predicting the global cloud market is to reach \$200bn by 2020.

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